PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

2000-121730

(43)Date of publication of application: 28.04.2000

(51)Int.CI.

G01S 13/93 B60R 21/00 G01S 13/86 G01S 17/93 G08G 1/16

(21)Application number: 10-297130

(71)Applicant:

HONDA MOTOR CO LTD

(22)Date of filing:

19.10.1998

(72)Inventor:

URAI YOSHIHIRO

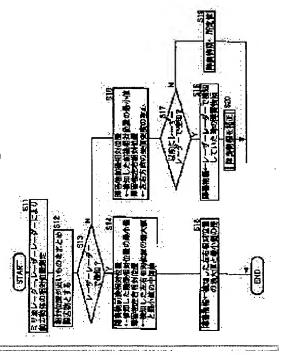
SUGIMOTO YOICHI HANEDA SATOSHI

ICHIKAWA SHOJI

(54) OBSTACLE DETECTING DEVICE FOR VEHICLE

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To maximize the precision of detection of an obstacle in various states by using a millimeter wave radar device which is not affected by dense fog and a laser radar device which has high resolution in the lateral direction in proper combination.

SOLUTION: In steps S11 and S12, the millimeter wave radar device and laser radar device are placed in operation to detect an obstacle and when the laser radar device detects an obstacle in a step S13, the relative position and lateral width of the obstacle are calculated in steps S14 and S15 according to the detection results of both the radar devices. If the laser radar device becomes unable to detect it in the step S14 owing to dense fog, etc., the relative position of the obstacle is calculated in a step S16 according to the detection result of the millimeter wave radar device which is not affected by the dense fog, etc., and the lateral width of the obstacle is calculated in a step S18 by using the detection result of the laser radar device before it becomes unable to detect it.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

29.11.2004

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

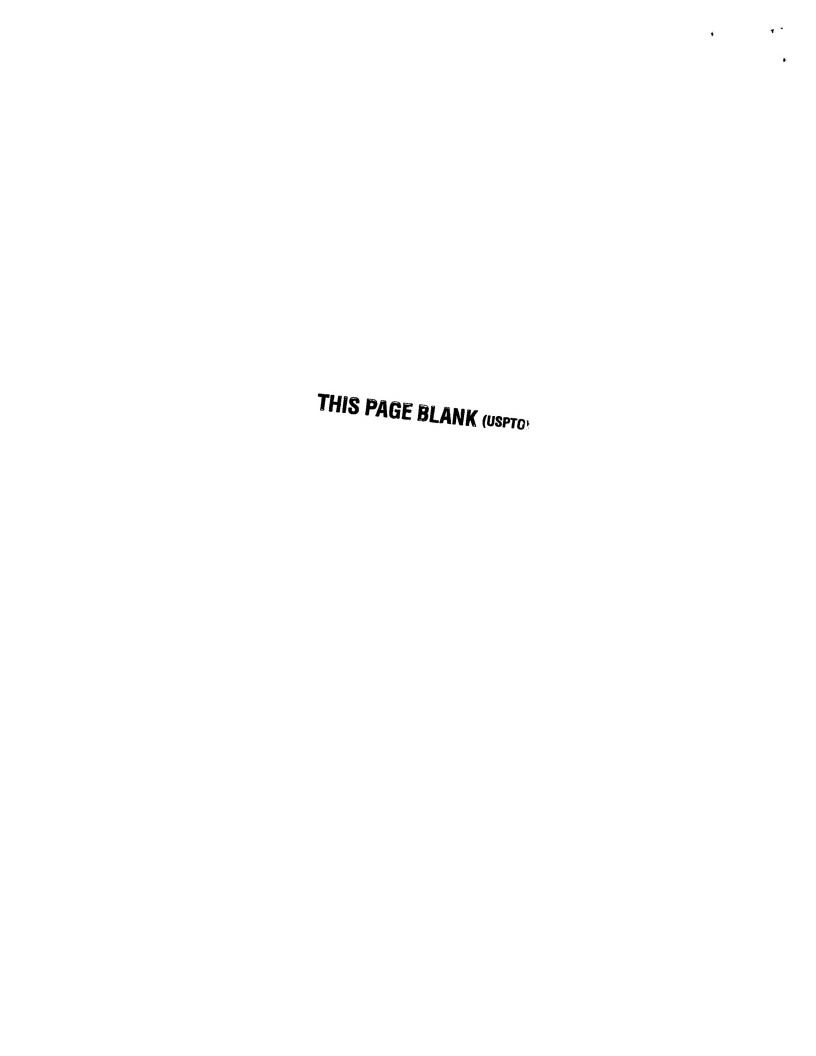
[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

Copyright (C); 1998,2003 Japan Patent Office



* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It comes to have the 1st detection means (S1) and the 2nd detection means (S2) of detecting an obstruction by receiving the reflected wave of the signal wave which transmitted towards the detection field ahead of a self-vehicle (V). The 2nd detection means (S2) is the crossing obstructing detector of the car which has the detection precision of the cross direction higher than the 1st detection means (S1). The period which is detecting the obstruction only with the 1st detection means (S1) The crossing obstructing detector of the car characterized by computing the width of face (W) of an obstruction based on the detection result of the 2nd detection means (S2) in the period before it while computing the location of an obstruction based on the detection result of the 1st detection means (S1).

[Claim 2] It is the crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 1 characterized by considering as the width of face which set up the width of face (W) of an obstruction beforehand while the 2nd detection means (S2) is not detecting the obstruction in the period before said it.

[Claim 3] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 1 characterized by amending the width of face (W) of said computed obstruction in the detection situation of an obstruction at present.

[Claim 4] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 3 with which the detection situation of an obstruction at present is characterized by being [of the 2nd situation that some of 1st situations that the obstruction is detected out of the travelling direction transverse-plane field of the self-vehicle in said detection field, and obstructions have overflowed outside said detection field] in any at least.

[Claim 5] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 4 which is characterized by amending the width of face (W) of an obstruction small in the case of said 1st situation or said 2nd situation.

[Claim 6] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 5 characterized by in the case of said 2nd situation amending the width of face (W) of an obstruction small so that the whole obstruction may be settled in said detection field. [Claim 7] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 3 characterized by for the detection situation of an obstruction at present being in the situation that time amount has passed by this time since the time of the 2nd detection means detecting the obstruction in the period before said it, and amending the width of face (W) of an obstruction small according to this elapsed time.

[Claim 8] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 3 with which the detection situation of an obstruction at present is characterized by being [of the situation that steering actuation by the situation which the relative motion of the revolution direction has produced between the self-vehicle and the obstruction, the situation that the self-vehicle (V) is circling, and the operator is performed] in any at least.

[Claim 9] The crossing obstructing detector of a car according to claim 8 characterized by amending the width of face (W) of an obstruction small, so that the steering actuation by the relative motion or said operator of said revolution direction is large. [Claim 10] The crossing obstructing detector of a car given in any of claims 1–9 which are characterized by for the 1st detection means (S1) being a millimeter wave radar installation, and the 2nd detection means (S2) being laser radar equipment they are.

[Translation done.]



* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the crossing obstructing detector of the car which combined the 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means which the detection properties of an obstruction differed.

[Description of the Prior Art] When obstructions, such as the car in front, may be detected with the radar installation carried in the self-vehicle and a self-vehicle may contact an obstruction, the transit safety device of the car which performs automatic braking and avoids contact is well-known. As a radar installation used in this transit safety device, a millimeter wave radar installation (for example, refer to JP,8-94749,A and JP,7-318635,A) and laser radar equipment are known.

[0003] Although a millimeter wave radar installation can detect an obstruction, without being influenced by meteorological conditions, such as a thick fog, since it is difficult to extract a beam thinly, there is a problem in which the resolution of a longitudinal direction is inferior. On the other hand, although it excels in the resolution of a longitudinal direction since laser radar equipment can extract a beam thinly, it may become detection impossible according to meteorological conditions, such as a thick fog.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] As mentioned above, a millimeter wave radar installation and laser radar equipment have the merit and the demerit, respectively, but if it is used combining both radar installations appropriately, it will become possible to compensate both demerit and to raise the detection precision of an obstruction.

[0005] This invention was made in view of the above-mentioned situation, and aims at raising the detection precision of an obstruction to the maximum in various situations by using it, combining appropriately the 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means which the detection properties of an obstruction differ.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, invention indicated by claim 1 It comes to have the 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means of detecting an obstruction by receiving the reflected wave of the signal wave which transmitted towards the detection field ahead of a self-vehicle. The period which the 2nd detection means is the crossing obstructing detector of the car which has the detection precision of the cross direction higher than the 1st detection means, and is detecting the obstruction only with the 1st detection means While computing the location of an obstruction based on the detection result of the 1st detection means, it is characterized by computing the width of face of an obstruction based on the detection result of the 2nd detection means in the period before it.

[0007] According to the above-mentioned configuration, the period which is detecting the obstruction only with the 1st detection means by which the detection precision of the cross direction is low in comparison Since the location of an obstruction is computed based on the detection result of this 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means computes the width of face of an obstruction based on the detection result of this 2nd detection means in the period before it which was still able to be detected Even if the 2nd detection means becomes detection impossible, the width of face of an obstruction is computable with high degree of accuracy.

[0008] moreover, invention indicated by claim 2 — the configuration of claim 1 — in addition, while the 2nd detection means is not detecting the obstruction in the period before said it, it is characterized by considering as the width of face which set up the width of face of an obstruction beforehand.

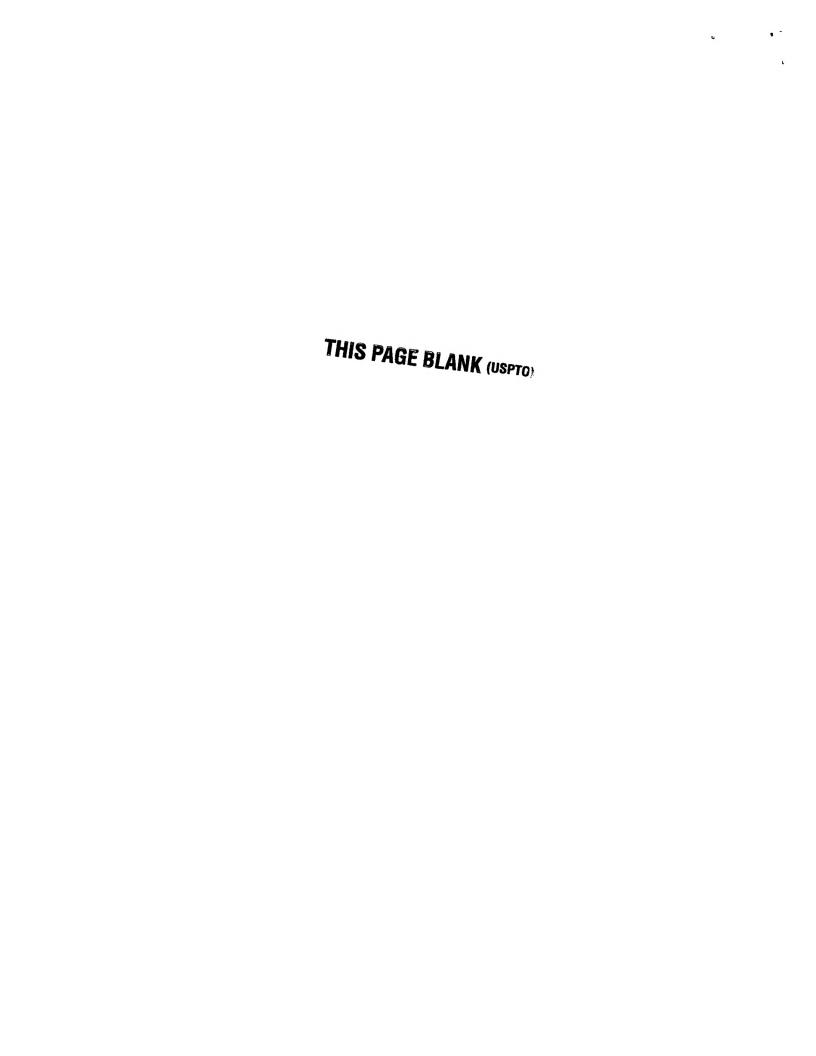
[0009] Since the 2nd detection means is not detecting the obstruction in the period before said it, even when the width of face of an obstruction cannot be computed according to the above-mentioned configuration, it can respond by making into the width of face of an obstruction width of face set up beforehand.

[0010] Moreover, in addition to the configuration of claim 1, invention indicated by claim 3 is characterized by amending the width of face of said computed obstruction based on the detection situation of an obstruction at present.

[0011] According to the above-mentioned configuration, since the width of face of said computed obstruction is amended based on the detection situation of an obstruction at present, the width of face of an obstruction with a still higher precision can be obtained.

[0012] Moreover, as for invention indicated by claim 4, in addition to the configuration of claim 3, the detection situation of an obstruction at present is characterized by being [of the 2nd situation that some of 1st situations that the obstruction is detected out of the travelling direction transverse-plane field of the self-vehicle in the detection field of the 1st detection means, and obstructions have overflowed outside said detection field] in any at least.

[0013] In the 1st situation that according to the above-mentioned configuration the location of the detected obstruction is outside the travelling direction transverse-plane field of the self-vehicle in a detection field, and a detection error exists in the location of this obstruction Or in the 2nd situation that the location of the detected obstruction has overflowed outside the detection field, and a detection error exists in the location of this obstruction, the endpoint of the cross direction of an



obstruction is appropriately computable by amending the width of face of said computed obstruction.

[0014] Moreover, in addition to the configuration of claim 3, in the case of said 1st situation or said 2nd situation, invention indicated by claim 5 is characterized by amending the width of face of an obstruction small.

[0015] According to the above-mentioned configuration, since the width of face of an obstruction is small amended in said the 1st situation or said 2nd situation, the endpoint of the cross direction of an obstruction can be computed much more appropriately.

[0016] Moreover, in addition to the configuration of claim 5, in the case of said 2nd situation, invention indicated by claim 6 is characterized by amending the width of face of an obstruction small so that the whole obstruction may be settled in said detection field.

[0017] Since according to the above-mentioned configuration the width of face of an obstruction is small amended so that the whole obstruction may be settled in a detection field in said 2nd situation, the endpoint of the cross direction of an obstruction can be computed much more appropriately.

[0018] Moreover, in addition to the configuration of claim 3, the detection situation of an obstruction at present is in the situation that time amount has passed by this time since the time of the 2nd detection means detecting the obstruction in the period before said it, and invention indicated by claim 7 is characterized by amending the width of face of an obstruction small according to this elapsed time.

[0019] According to the above-mentioned configuration, even if the dependability of the precision of the width of face of the obstruction which time amount had passed by this time since the time of the 2nd detection means detecting the obstruction, therefore was detected with the 2nd detection means is falling, it can prevent that the width of face of an obstruction is computed excessively by amending the width of face of an obstruction small according to said elapsed time.

[0020] Moreover, as for invention indicated by claim 8, in addition to the configuration of claim 3, the detection situation of an obstruction at present is characterized by being [of the situation that steering actuation by the situation which the relative motion of the revolution direction has produced between the self-vehicle and the obstruction, the situation that the self-vehicle is circling, and the operator is performed] in any at least.

[0021] According to the above-mentioned configuration, that the relative motion of the revolution direction has arisen between a self-vehicle and an obstruction or when steering actuation by the operator is performed and the self-vehicle is circling, even if the detection precision of the location of an obstruction falls, the width of face of an obstruction can be amended and the fall of said detection precision can be compensated.

[0022] moreover, invention indicated by claim 9 — the configuration of claim 8 — in addition, it is characterized by amending the width of face of an obstruction small, so that the steering actuation by the relative motion or said operator of said revolution direction is large.

[0023] Since according to the above-mentioned configuration the width of face of an obstruction is small amended when the steering actuation by the relative motion and the operator of the revolution direction between a self-vehicle and an obstruction is large, it can prevent that the width of face of an obstruction is computed excessively.

[0024] Moreover, in addition to which configuration of claims 1-9, invention indicated by claim 10 is characterized by for the 1st detection means being a millimeter wave radar installation, and the 2nd detection means being laser radar equipment. [0025] According to the above-mentioned configuration, the location and width of face of an obstruction are detectable with high degree of accuracy by using a millimeter wave radar installation as the 1st detection means by the weather's etc. being able

high degree of accuracy by using a millimeter wave radar installation as the 1st detection means by the weather's etc. being able to detect the location of an obstruction, without being influenced, and using laser radar equipment as the 2nd detection means. [0026]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, it explains based on the example of this invention which showed the gestalt of operation of this invention to the accompanying drawing.

[0027] The whole car block diagram with which <u>drawing 1</u> - <u>drawing 18</u> show the example of this invention, and <u>drawing 1</u> was equipped with the crossing obstructing detector, The block diagram of a braking network and drawing 3 drawing 2 The explanatory view of an obstruction detection operation of laser radar equipment, The explanatory view of technique in which drawing 4 pinpoints the explanatory view of an obstruction detection operation of a millimeter wave radar installation, and drawing 5 pinpoints the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction from the receiving reinforcement of each beam of a millimeter wave radar installation. The explanatory view of detection of the relative position of the obstruction according [drawing 6] to a millimeter wave radar installation and laser radar equipment, The flow chart of an obstruction detection routine and drawing 8 drawing 7 The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 1st example), Drawing 9 The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 2nd example), Drawing 10 The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 3rd example), Drawing 11 The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 4th example), Drawing 12 The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 5th example), An operation explanatory view when, as for drawing 13, the location of an obstruction has shifted from the transverse plane of a self-vehicle to right and left, The explanatory view of the field where drawing 14 amends the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction, and drawing 15 The explanatory view of right-and-left width-of-face amendment of an obstruction, The ** map with which the amount of amendments is searched from the time amount after it becomes impossible for drawing 16 to detect an obstruction with laser radar equipment, the ** map with which drawing 17 searches revolution lateral acceleration to a yaw rate and the amount of amendments, and drawing 18 are ** maps with which the amount of amendments is searched from a steering rudder angle rate.

[0028] As shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2, the car V carrying the crossing obstructing detector of this invention of four flowers is equipped with the front wheels WFL and WFR of the driving wheel slack right and left which the driving force of Engine E is delivered through Transmission T, and the rear wheels WRL and WRR of coupled driving wheel slack right and left which rotate with transit of Car V. The brake pedal 1 operated by the operator is connected to a master cylinder 3 through the electronics control negative pressure booster 2. The electronics control negative pressure booster 2 operates a master cylinder



3 with the braking command signal from electronic control unit U at the time of braking exchange, without being based on actuation of a brake pedal 1 while it doubles the power the treading strength of a brake pedal 1 mechanically and operates a master cylinder 3. When treading strength is inputted into a brake pedal 1 and a braking command signal is inputted from electronic control unit U, the electronics control negative pressure booster 2 makes brake oil pressure output according to any of both, or the larger one. In addition, the input rod of the electronics control negative pressure booster 2 is connected to the brake pedal 1 through the lost motion device, and even if the electronics control negative pressure booster 2 operates with the signal from electronic control unit U and said input rod moves ahead, a brake pedal 1 stops at an initial valve position.

[0029] The output ports 8 and 9 of the pair of a master cylinder 3 are connected to brake caliper 5floor line prepared in front wheels WFL and WFR and rear wheels WRL and WRR through hydraulic control 4, respectively, 5FR, 5RL, and 5RR. Hydraulic control 4 is equipped with four pressure-regulators 6 — corresponding to four brake caliper 5floor lines, 5FR, 5RL, and 5RR, and each pressure-regulator 6 — controls actuation of brake caliper 5floor line which was connected to electronic control unit U and prepared in front wheels WFL and WFR and rear wheels WRL and WRR, 5FR, 5RL, and 5RR according to an individual. Therefore, if the brake oil pressure transmitted to each brake caliper 5floor line, 5FR, 5RL, and 5RR is independently controlled by pressure-regulator 6 —, anti-lock brake control which controls the lock of the wheel at the time of braking can be performed.

[0030] Millimeter wave radar installation S1 which sends a millimeter wave to electronic control unit U towards the car-body front, and detects an obstructions [, such as the car in front,] and self-vehicle order relative position and a right-and-left relative position based on the reflected wave Laser radar equipment S2 which sends laser towards the car-body front and detects the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction based on the reflected wave in an obstructions [, such as the car in front,] and self-vehicle order relative position and a right-and-left relative position, and a list It connects. Furthermore, wheel speed sensor S3 which detects the rotational frequency of front wheels WFL and WFR and rear wheels WRL and WRR in electronic control unit U, respectively Rudder angle rate sensor S4 which detects the rudder angle rate of a steering wheel 10 as --, and yaw rate sensor S5 which detects the yaw rate of Car V Lateral acceleration sensor S6 which detects the lateral acceleration of Car V It connects.

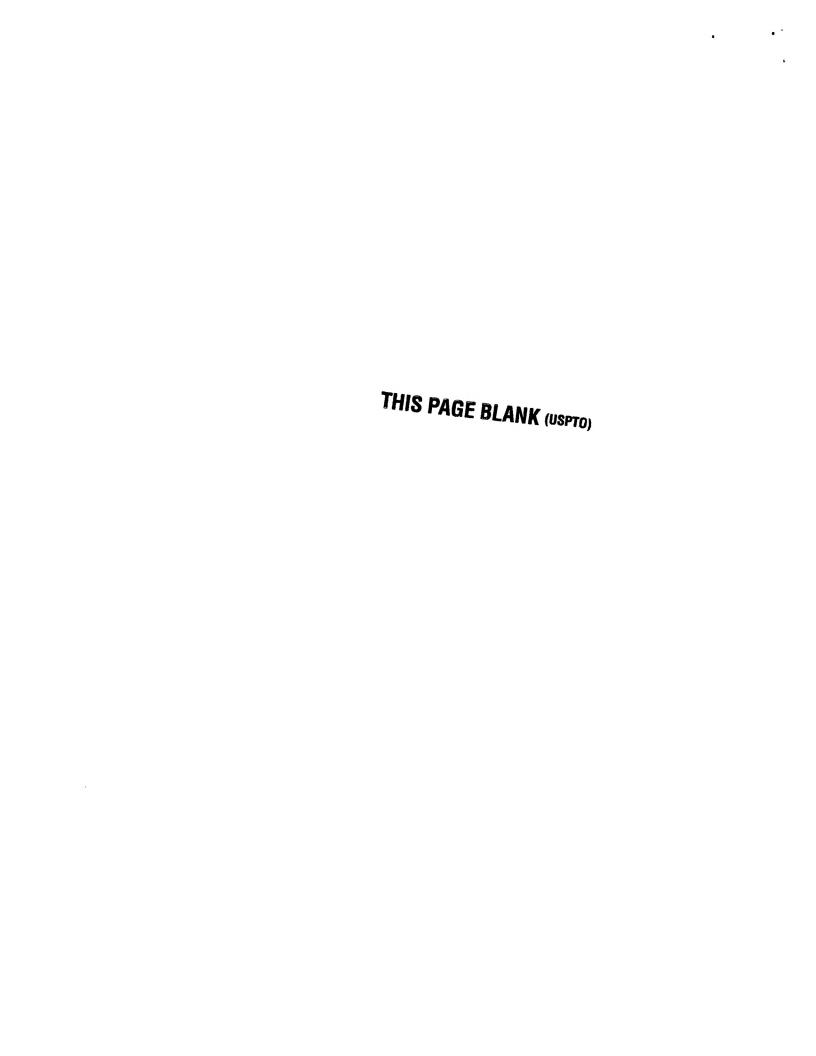
[0031] **(ing), electronic control unit U is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. And laser radar equipment S2 Based on a detection result, an obstructions order relative position, such as the car in front on the basis of a self-vehicle, a right-and-left relative position, and right-and-left width of face are computed, and it is [these order relative position, a right-and-left relative position and right-and-left width of face, and] the wheel speed sensor S3. Contact possibility with an obstruction is judged based on the vehicle speed and acceleration of a self-vehicle which were detected by —. And when a self-vehicle may contact an obstruction, the electronics control negative pressure booster 2 operates by the command from electronic control unit U, and the pressure of the brake oil pressure which the master cylinder 3 generated is regulated with hydraulic control 4, it is transmitted to brake caliper 5floor line, 5FR, 5RL, and 5RR, and automatic braking is performed that contact with an obstruction should be avoided.

[0032] Millimeter wave radar installation S1 And laser radar equipment S2 Since it has a respectively different detection property, the situation at that time is embraced, and it is both the radar installations S1 and S2. An obstruction order relative position, a right-and-left relative position, and right-and-left width of face are computed by using properly. Hereafter, the detail is explained.

[0033] First, millimeter wave radar installation S1 And laser radar equipment S2 A detection property is explained.
[0034] Laser radar equipment S2 Since the laser used can extract a beam thinly, By receiving the reflected wave from an obstruction, scanning the beam of the narrow width transmitted ahead [car-body] to a longitudinal direction (or a longitudinal direction and the vertical direction), as shown in <u>drawing 3</u> While detecting an obstruction order relative position based on the time amount from the transmission to reception, based on the transmit direction of a beam when a reflected wave is received, the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction is detected.

[0035] Laser radar equipment S2 In order to mainly detect the reflector of the right and left prepared in the car-body rear face when an obstruction is the car in front as it excels in the resolution of a longitudinal direction and is shown in <u>drawing 6</u>, the detection precision of the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction or right-and-left width of face is very good. On the other hand, it may be incorrect-recognized as two motor bicycles which run parallel to the reflector of right and left of one automobile, or two motor bicycles which run parallel to may be incorrect-recognized to be one automobile. Moreover, since the body which reflects light strongly is detected, they may be incorrect-detected, using as an obstruction reflective objects, such as a cat's-eye prepared in the road.

[0036] On the other hand, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. Since the millimeter wave used is difficult to extract thinly compared with laser, As shown in drawing 4, while detecting an obstruction order relative position based on the time amount from the transmission to reception by transmitting the beam of two or more millimeter waves ahead [car-body] at a radial, and receiving a reflected wave Based on the transmit direction of a beam by which the reflected wave was received, the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction is detected among two or more beams. Since the reflected wave of two or more beams is received to one obstruction at this time, as shown in <u>drawing 5</u> and <u>drawing 6</u> , the center-of-gravity location of the receiving reinforcement of two or more beams is computed, and that center-of-gravity location is presumed as a right-and-left relative position of an obstruction, the above reason to millimeter wave radar installation S1 **** -- since it is difficult to detect the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction -- as the right-and-left width of face of the obstruction -- laser radar equipment S2 The value presumed from the former detection result and the set point defined beforehand are adopted. [0037] As mentioned above, laser radar equipment S2 It sets for the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction, and the detection precision of right-and-left width of face, and is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. Although excelled, when laser is scattered about by meteorological conditions, such as a thick fog, there is a problem of being undetectable. On the other hand, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. Although it could detect without being influenced by the meteorological condition, as it mentioned above, it sets for the detection precision of a right-and-left relative position and right-and-left width of face, and it is laser radar equipment S2. It is inferior. So, at this example, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. And



laser radar equipment S2 It is the following, and is made and used properly.

[0038] At step S11 of the flow chart of <u>drawing 7</u>, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. And laser radar equipment S2 An obstruction order relative position and a right-and-left relative position are detected, respectively, and at continuing step S12, a relative position puts near detection data together, and it recognizes as an obstruction. At this time, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. As detection data, the detection data of each beam shown in <u>drawing 4</u> R> 4 and <u>drawing 5</u> are used independently. At continuing step S13, since there are no failures, such as a thick fog, it is laser radar equipment S2. When the obstruction is being detected, That is, millimeter wave radar installation S1 and when both the laser radar equipments S2 are detecting the obstruction At step S14, they are both the radar installations S1 and S2. While making the minimum value of the detected obstruction order relative-position data into an obstruction order relative position Both the radar installations S1 and S2 Let the maximum of the right-and-left relative-position data of the detected obstruction, and the mean value of the minimum value be the right-and-left relative positions of an obstruction. Furthermore, at step S15, it is both the radar installations S1 and S2. Let the difference of the maximum of the right-and-left relative position of the detected obstruction, and the minimum value be the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction. In addition, the right-and-left relative position of the obstruction in said step S14 and step S15 is 0 on the straight line prolonged ahead of a self-vehicle, it increases, so that it will be separated from the straight line on the left, if the left is made forward and the right is made negative, and they shall decrease in number, so that it separates on the right.

[0039] Thus, since there are no failures, such as a thick fog, it is laser radar equipment S2. Laser radar equipment S2 with a detection precision high when detectable Both the radar installations S1 containing detection data, and S2 Since an obstruction order relative position, a right-and-left relative position, and right-and-left width of face are detected with detection data, the detection precision is laser radar equipment S2. It becomes detection precision and a high thing more than an EQC. [0040] At said step S13, it is laser radar equipment S2 by failures, such as a thick fog. The detection to depend becomes impossible and it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. When only the detection to depend is possible, it shifts to step S16. At step S16, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. While making into an obstruction order relative position the minimum value of the obstruction order relative-position data detected with each beam, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. Let the center-of-gravity location of the right-and-left relative-position data of each beam be the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction (refer to drawing 5). At continuing step S17, the obstruction is laser radar equipment S2 before. The detected right-and-left width of face is adopted as right-and-left width of face of an obstruction. And at step S20, the right-and-left width of face of the obstruction computed at said step S18 is amended. There is two or more technique in this amendment, and that each is explained in full detail later. On the other hand, said obstruction is laser radar equipment S2 before at step S17. When not detected, it considers as the value (for example, 0.5m) which set up beforehand the right-and-left width of face of the obstruction at step S19.

[0041] Thus, laser radar equipment S2 with a high detection precision of the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction It is the millimeter wave radar installation S1 with a low detection precision of the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction by using the right-and-left width of face of the obstruction detected when it was able to be detected, in being detection impossible. A weak spot is suppliable.

[0042] Next, sequential explanation of two or more examples of amendment of the right-and-left width of face of the obstruction in said step S20 is given.

[0043] ** As shown in amendment drawing 15 (a) according to the gap from the self-vehicle transverse plane of an obstruction If an obstruction is located in the transverse plane of a self-vehicle, it will be the millimeter wave radar installation S1. The right-and-left relative position S of the detected obstruction is the mid gear PC of the longitudinal direction of this obstruction. Since it is in agreement, It is laser radar equipment S2 before. If the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction is equally distributed to the both sides of the right-and-left relative position S of said obstruction, they will be the endpoints PL and PR of right and left of an obstruction. It is well in agreement in an actual endpoint.

[0044] However, if the case where the obstruction has shifted from the transverse plane of a self-vehicle to left-hand side is considered as shown in drawing 13, since a millimeter wave will hit from the diagonally-rear-to-the-right direction of an obstruction, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. The right-and-left relative position S of the obstruction detected is the mid gear PC of the longitudinal direction of an obstruction, as shown in drawing 15 (b). It moves to right-hand side (transverse-plane side of a self-vehicle). Therefore, it is laser radar equipment S2 before. If the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction is equally distributed to the both sides of the right-and-left relative position S of said obstruction, they are the endpoints PL and PR of right and left of an obstruction. It is not in agreement with an actual endpoint, and is especially the endpoint PR on the right-hand side of an obstruction. It will shift on the right of an actual endpoint (transverse-plane side of a self-vehicle).

[0045] Endpoints PL and PR of right and left of an obstruction Endpoint PR located in the transverse-plane side of a self-vehicle inside Although it is important when judging contact possibility, it is the endpoint PR. If computed by shifting to the transverse-plane side of a self-vehicle rather than an actual endpoint, contact possibility may be computed by slight height rather than an original value, and automatic-braking control will no longer be performed exactly. so, as a slash shows to <u>drawing 14</u> (a) or <u>drawing 14</u> (b), when the field A along the transverse plane of a self-vehicle is set up and an obstruction is in said field A Millimeter wave radar installation S1 The right-and-left relative position S of the detected obstruction is the mid gear PC of the longitudinal direction of an obstruction. Consider that it is in agreement and amendment is not performed. When there is no obstruction in said field A, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. The right-and-left relative position S of the detected obstruction is the mid gear PC of the longitudinal direction of an obstruction. It is considered that it is not in agreement, before — laser radar equipment S2 the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction — it — a predetermined value (for example, 1m) — it amends to small W'.

[0046] consequently, PL if right-and-left width-of-face W' of the obstruction amended on right-and-left both sides of the right-and-left relative position S of an obstruction is equally distributed as shown in <u>drawing 15</u> (b), in case a new endpoint will not amend and PR from — it moves to PL' and PR', it comes to be well in agreement in an actual endpoint, and the calculation



precision of contact possibility improves.

[0047] It is the flow chart of <u>drawing 8</u> which summarized the above explanation, the obstruction has separated from Field A at step S31, and the right-and-left relative position S of an obstruction is the mid gear PC of the longitudinal direction of an obstruction. When not in agreement, it is laser radar equipment S2 before at step S32. It considers as right-and-left width-of-face W' of the obstruction after amending the value which subtracted the predetermined value from the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction. In addition, said predetermined value may not be fixed but it may be changed according to extent of the gap from the self-vehicle front of an obstruction.

[0048] ** As shown in amendment drawing 13 and drawing 15 (c) according to deviation from the detection range of a millimeter wave radar installation of an obstruction The obstruction has shifted from the transverse plane of a self-vehicle to right-hand side, and the part is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. Considering the case where it has deviated from the detection range Since a millimeter wave hits from the diagonally-rear-to-the-left direction of an obstruction and some millimeter waves on the right-hand side of an obstruction do not irradiate, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. The right-and-left relative position S of the obstruction detected is the mid gear PC of the longitudinal direction of an obstruction. It moves to left-hand side (transverse-plane side of a self-vehicle). Consequently, it is laser radar equipment S2 before. If the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction is equally distributed to the both sides of the right-and-left relative position S of said obstruction, they are the endpoints PL and PR of right and left of an obstruction. Endpoint PR of inner right-hand side It may overflow outside the detection range. Then, it is laser radar equipment S2 before. It is the right-hand side endpoint PR about the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction. It amends in the reduction direction and considers as W' so that it may be settled outside the detection range.

[0049] It is the flow chart of <u>drawing 9</u> a flow chart summarized the above explanation, and it is laser radar equipment S2 before at step S41. If which endpoint has separated from the detection range of the millimeter wave radar installation S1 at step S42 as a result of computing the endpoint of an obstruction using the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction, said endpoint is the millimeter wave radar installation S1 at step S43. The right-and-left width of face W of said obstruction is amended in the reduction direction so that it may be restored to the detection range.

[0050] ** Amendment laser radar equipment S2 according to the time amount after laser radar equipment becomes detection impossible. The time amount after becoming detection impossible responds for becoming long, and since the dependability of the right-and-left width of face W of an obstruction falls, when the same right-and-left width of face W is used continuously, a possibility that the calculation precision of contact possibility may fall has it.

[0051] Then, it is laser radar equipment S2 at step S51 of the flow chart of <u>drawing 10</u>. Based on the time amount after becoming detection impossible, the amount of amendments of the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction is searched from the map of <u>drawing 16</u>. At continuing step S52, it is laser radar equipment S2 before. It considers as right-and-left width-of-face W' of the obstruction after amending the value which subtracted said amount of amendments from the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction. However, right-and-left width-of-face W' of the obstruction after amendment sets the minimum value to 0.5m, and it is made not to become a negative value.

[0052] ** If the amendment self-vehicle according to the movement condition of the revolution direction of a self-vehicle circles, to an obstruction, a millimeter wave will be irradiated from across, it may shift from the right-and-left relative position where the right-and-left relative position detected is actual, and the calculation precision of contact possibility may fall. Moreover, an operator may sense troublesome, when the operator is circling spontaneously, it is judged with there being possibility of contacting an obstruction and automatic braking and an alarm are performed. Then, it is based on the movement condition of the revolution direction of a self-vehicle, and is laser radar equipment S2 before. If it amends so that the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction may be subtracted, it will be prevented that the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction comes to be recognized small, contact possibility is judged greatly beyond the need, and unnecessary automatic braking is performed.

[0053] At step S61 of drawing 11, it is the yaw rate sensor S5. While detecting the yaw rate of a self-vehicle, it is the lateral acceleration sensor S6. The lateral acceleration of a self-vehicle is detected. It is laser radar equipment S2 before at step S63 which searches the amount of amendments from the map of drawing 17 by making said yaw rate and said lateral acceleration into a parameter, and continues at continuing step S62. It considers as right-and-left width-of-face W of the obstruction after amending the value which subtracted said amount of amendments from the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction.

[0054] ** If it is judged with there being possibility of contacting an obstruction and automatic braking and an alarm are performed when the amendment operator according to the rudder angle rate by steering actuation of an operator has recognized contact possibility with an obstruction and performs steering actuation for evasion, automatic braking may interfere in said steering actuation, and an operator may receive sense of incongruity. In order to prevent this, it responds to the rudder angle rate by steering actuation of an operator, and it is laser radar equipment S2 before. It amends so that the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction may be subtracted. It can prevent that the right-and-left width of face of an obstruction comes to be recognized small by this, contact possibility is judged greatly beyond the need, and unnecessary automatic braking is performed.

[0055] At step S71 of drawing 12, it is rudder angle rate sensor S4. A rudder angle rate is computed based on an output, and the amount of amendments is searched with the application of this rudder angle rate on the map of drawing 18. And at step S72, it is laser radar equipment S2 before. It considers as right-and-left width-of-face W of the obstruction after amending the value which subtracted said amount of amendments from the right-and-left width of face W of the detected obstruction.
[0056] In addition, it is also possible to replace with a rudder angle rate and to use the time amount variation of steering torque or steering torque.

[0057] As mentioned above, although the example of this invention was explained, this invention can perform design changes various in the range which does not deviate from the summary.

[0058] For example, at an example, it is usually sometimes the millimeter wave radar installation S1. And laser radar equipment

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

S2 Although the obstruction is detected in great numbers, an obstruction is usually sometimes detected only with laser radar equipment S2, and it is laser radar equipment S2. When it becomes detection impossible, it is the millimeter wave radar installation S1. It is also possible to detect an obstruction.

[Effect of the Invention] According to invention indicated by claim 1 as mentioned above, the period which is detecting the obstruction only with the 1st detection means by which the detection precision of the cross direction is low in comparison Since the location of an obstruction is computed based on the detection result of this 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means computes the width of face of an obstruction based on the detection result of this 2nd detection means in the period before it which was still able to be detected Even if the 2nd detection means becomes detection impossible, the width of face of an obstruction is computable with high degree of accuracy.

[0060] Moreover, since the 2nd detection means is not detecting the obstruction in the period before said it, even when the width of face of an obstruction cannot be computed according to invention indicated by claim 2, it can respond by making into the width of face of an obstruction width of face set up beforehand.

[0061] Moreover, according to invention indicated by claim 3, since the width of face of said computed obstruction is amended based on the detection situation of an obstruction at present, the width of face of an obstruction with a still higher precision can be obtained.

[0062] Moreover, according to invention indicated by claim 4, it sets in the 1st situation that the location of the detected obstruction is outside the travelling direction transverse-plane field of the self-vehicle in a detection field, and a detection error exists in the location of this obstruction. Or in the 2nd situation that the location of the detected obstruction has overflowed outside the detection field, and a detection error exists in the location of this obstruction, the endpoint of the cross direction of an obstruction is appropriately computable by amending the width of face of said computed obstruction.

[0063] Moreover, according to invention indicated by claim 5, since the width of face of an obstruction is small amended in said the 1st situation or said 2nd situation, the endpoint of the cross direction of an obstruction can be computed much more appropriately.

[0064] Moreover, since according to invention indicated by claim 6 the width of face of an obstruction is small amended so that the whole obstruction may be settled in a detection field in said 2nd situation, the endpoint of the cross direction of an obstruction can be computed much more appropriately.

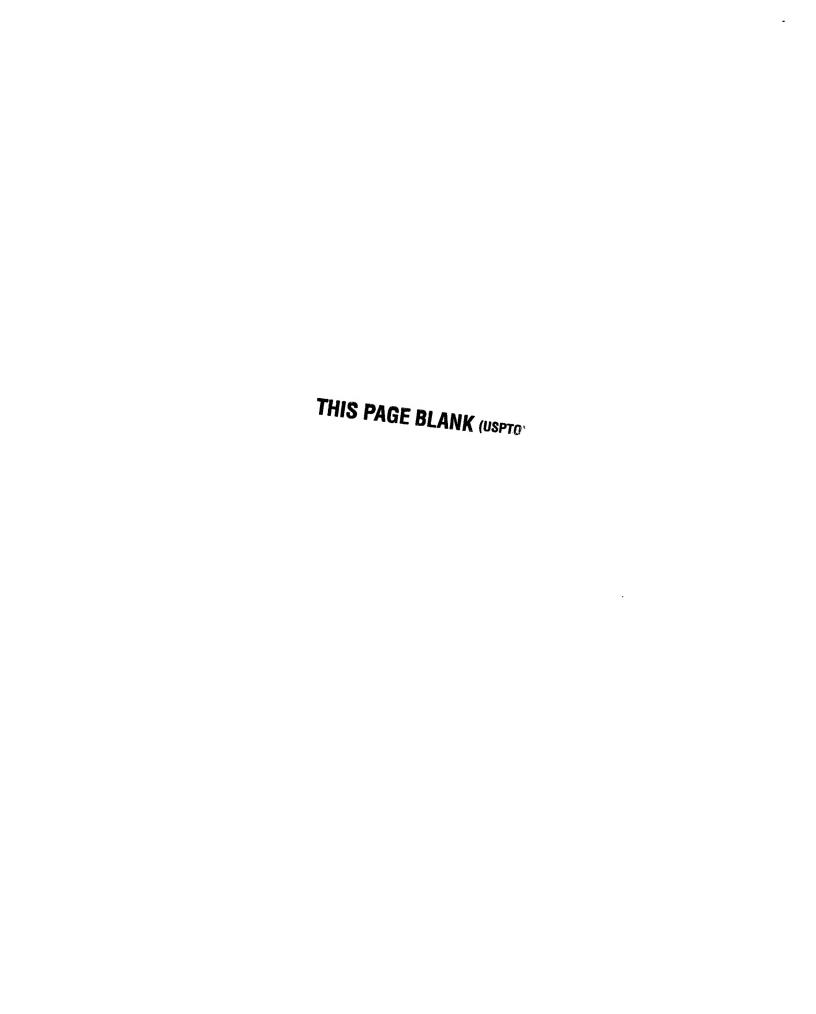
[0065] Moreover, according to invention indicated by claim 7, even if the dependability of the precision of the width of face of the obstruction which time amount had passed by this time since the time of the 2nd detection means detecting the obstruction, therefore was detected with the 2nd detection means is falling, it can prevent that the width of face of an obstruction is computed excessively by amending the width of face of an obstruction small according to said elapsed time.

[0066] Moreover, according to invention indicated by claim 8, that the relative motion of the revolution direction has arisen between a self-vehicle and an obstruction or when steering actuation by the operator is performed and the self-vehicle is circling, even if the detection precision of the location of an obstruction falls, the width of face of an obstruction can be amended and the fall of said detection precision can be compensated.

[0067] Moreover, since according to invention indicated by claim 9 the width of face of an obstruction is small amended when the steering actuation by the relative motion and the operator of the revolution direction between a self-vehicle and an obstruction is large, it can prevent that the width of face of an obstruction is computed excessively.

[0068] Moreover, according to invention indicated by claim 10, the location and width of face of an obstruction are detectable with high degree of accuracy by using a millimeter wave radar installation as the 1st detection means by the weather's etc. being able to detect the location of an obstruction, without being influenced, and using laser radar equipment as the 2nd detection means.

[Translation done.]



* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The car whole block diagram equipped with the crossing obstructing detector

[Drawing 2] The block diagram of a braking network

[Drawing 3] The explanatory view of an obstruction detection operation of laser radar equipment

[Drawing 4] The explanatory view of an obstruction detection operation of a millimeter wave radar installation

[Drawing 5] The explanatory view of the technique of pinpointing the right-and-left relative position of an obstruction from the receiving reinforcement of each beam of a millimeter wave radar installation

[Drawing 6] The explanatory view of detection of the relative position of the obstruction by the millimeter wave radar installation and laser radar equipment

[Drawing 7] The flow chart of an obstruction detection routine

[Drawing 8] The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 1st example)

[Drawing 9] The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 2nd example)

[Drawing 10] The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 3rd example)

Drawing 11] The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 4th example)

[Drawing 12] The flow chart of the right-and-left width-of-face amendment subroutine of an obstruction (the 5th example)

[Drawing 13] An operation explanatory view when the location of an obstruction has shifted from the transverse plane of a selfvehicle to right and left

[Drawing 14] The explanatory view of the field which amends the right-and left relative position of an obstruction

[Drawing 15] The explanatory view of right-and-left width-of-face amendment of an obstruction

[Drawing 16] The ** map with which the amount of amendments is searched from the time amount after it becomes impossible to detect an obstruction with laser radar equipment

[Drawing 17] The ** map with which the amount of amendments is searched from a yaw rate and revolution lateral acceleration

[Drawing 18] The ** map with which the amount of amendments is searched from a steering rudder angle rate

[Description of Notations]

S1 Millimeter wave radar installation (the 1st body detection means)

S2 Laser radar equipment (the 2nd body detection means)

V Car (self-vehicle)

W Width of face of an obstruction

[Translation done.]



(19)日本国特許庁(JP)

(12) 公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号 特開2000-121730 (P2000-121730A)

(43)公開日 平成12年4月28日(2000.4.28)

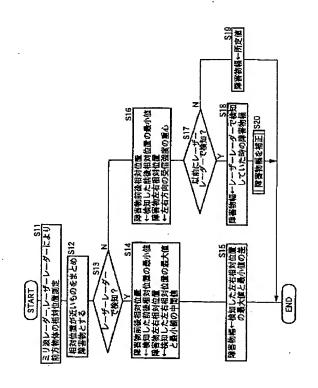
(51) Int.Cl. ⁷	識別記号	F I テーマコート*(参考	;)
G01S 13/93		G01S 13/93 Z 5H180	
B60R 21/00		13/86 5 J O 7 O	
G01S 13/86		G08G 1/16 C 5J084	
17/93	· .	B 6 0 R 21/00 6 2 4 D	
G08G 1/16		G 0 1 S 17/88 A	
		審査請求 未請求 請求項の数10 OL (全 12 頁	()
(21)出願番号	特願平10-297130	(71)出顧人 000005326	_
		本田技研工業株式会社	
(22)出顧日	平成10年10月19日(1998.10.19)	東京都港区南青山二丁目1番1号	
		(72)発明者 浦井 芳洋	
		埼玉県和光市中央1丁目4番1号 株式会	⋛
•		社本田技術研究所内	
		(72)発明者 杉本 洋一	
		埼玉県和光市中央1丁目4番1号 株式会	ڪ
		社本田技術研究所内	
		(74)代理人 100071870	
		弁理士 落合 健 (外1名)	
			•
		最終頁に続	<

(54) 【発明の名称】 車両の障害物検知装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 濃霧等の影響を受けないミリ波レーダー装置と、左右方向の分解能が高いレーザーレーダー装置とを適切に組み合わせて使用することにより、種々の状況において障害物の検知精度を最大限に高める。

【解決手段】 ステップS11,S12で、ミリ波レーダー装置およびレーザーレーダー装置を作動させて障害物を検知し、ステップS13でレーザーレーダー装置が障害物を検知していれば、ステップS14,S15で両レーダー装置の検知結果に基づいて障害物の相対位置および左右幅を算出する。前記ステップS13で濃霧等によりレーザーレーダー装置が検知不能になれば、ステップS16で濃霧等の影響を受けないミリ波レーダー装置の検知結果に基づいて障害物の相対位置を算出するとともに、ステップS18で、検知不能になる前のレーザーレーダー装置の検知結果を用いて障害物の左右幅を算出する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 自車(V)の前方の検知領域に向けて送信した信号波の反射波を受信することにより障害物を検知する第1検知手段(S1)および第2検知手段

 (S_2) を備えてなり、第2検知手段 (S_2) は第1検知手段 (S_1) よりも高い車幅方向の検知精度を有する車両の障害物検知装置であって、

第 1 検知手段($S_{\rm I}$)だけで障害物を検知している期間は、第 1 検知手段($S_{\rm I}$)の検知結果に基づいて障害物の位置を算出するとともに、それ以前の期間における第 10 2 検知手段($S_{\rm Z}$)の検知結果に基づいて障害物の幅

(W) を算出することを特徴とする車両の障害物検知装置。

【請求項2】 前記それ以前の期間において第2検知手段(S2)が障害物を検知していないときは、障害物の幅(W)を予め設定した幅とすることを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の車両の障害物検知装置。

【請求項3】 現時点の障害物の検知状況において前記 算出された障害物の幅(W)を補正することを特徴とす る、請求項1に記載の車両の障害物検知装置。

【請求項4】 現時点の障害物の検知状況が、障害物が 前記検知領域内の自車の進行方向正面領域外で検知され ている第1の状況および障害物の一部が前記検知領域外 にはみ出ている第2の状況の少なくとも何れかであるこ とを特徴とする、請求項3に記載の車両の障害物検知装 置。

【請求項5】 前記第1の状況または前記第2の状況の場合、障害物の幅(W)を小さく補正することを特徴とする、請求項4に記載の車両の障害物検知装置。

【請求項6】 前記第2の状況の場合、障害物の全体が 前記検知領域内に納まるように障害物の幅(W)を小さ く補正することを特徴とする、請求項5に記載の車両の 障害物検知装置。

【請求項7】 現時点の障害物の検知状況が、前記それ 以前の期間において第2検知手段が障害物を検知してい た時点から現時点までに時間が経過している状況であ り、この経過時間に応じて障害物の幅(W)を小さく補 正することを特徴とする、請求項3に記載の車両の障害 物検知装置。

【請求項8】 現時点の障害物の検知状況が、自車と障害物との間に旋回方向の相対運動が生じている状況、自車(V)が旋回している状況および運転者によるステアリング操作が行われている状況の少なくとも何れかであることを特徴とする、請求項3に記載の車両の障害物検知装置。

【請求項9】 前記旋回方向の相対運動あるいは前記運転者によるステアリング操作が大きいほど障害物の幅

(W) を小さく補正することを特徴とする、請求項8に 記載の車両の障害物検知装置。

【請求項10】 第1検知手段(Sı)がミリ波レーダ

一装置であり、第2検知手段(S_2)がレーザーレーダー装置であることを特徴とする、請求項 $1\sim9$ の何れかに記載の車両の障害物検知装置。

2

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、障害物の検知特性 が異なる第1検知手段および第2検知手段を組み合わせ た車両の障害物検知装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】自車に搭載したレーダー装置で前走車等の障害物を検知し、自車が障害物と接触する可能性がある場合に自動制動を行って接触を回避する車両の走行安全装置は公知である。かかる走行安全装置において使用されるレーダー装置として、ミリ波レーダー装置(例えば、特開平8-94749号公報、特開平7-318635号公報参照)およびレーザーレーダー装置が知られている。

【0003】ミリ波レーダー装置は濃霧等の気象条件に 左右されずに障害物を検知可能であるが、ビームを細く 絞ることが難しいために左右方向の分解能が劣る問題が ある。一方、レーザーレーダー装置はビームを細く絞る ことが可能であるために左右方向の分解能に優れている が、濃霧等の気象条件により検知不能になる場合があ る。

[0004]

30

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上述したように、ミリ 波レーダー装置およびレーザーレーダー装置はそれぞれ メリットおよびデメリットを有しているが、両レーダー 装置を適切に組み合わせて使用すれば、両者のデメリットを補って障害物の検知精度を高めることが可能になる。

【0005】本発明は前述の事情に鑑みてなされたもので、障害物の検知特性が異なる第1検知手段および第2検知手段を適切に組み合わせて使用することにより種々の状況において障害物の検知精度を最大限に高めることを目的とする。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するために、請求項1に記載された発明は、自車の前方の検知領域に向けて送信した信号波の反射波を受信することにより障害物を検知する第1検知手段および第2検知手段を備えてなり、第2検知手段は第1検知手段よりも高い車幅方向の検知精度を有する車両の障害物検知装置であって、第1検知手段だけで障害物を検知している期間は、第1検知手段の検知結果に基づいて障害物の位置を算出するとともに、それ以前の期間における第2検知手段の検知結果に基づいて障害物の幅を算出することを特徴とする。

【0007】上記構成によれば、車幅方向の検知精度が 50 比較的に低い第1検知手段だけで障害物を検知している 期間は、障害物の位置は該第1検知手段の検知結果に基づいて算出し、障害物の幅は第2検知手段が未だ検知可能であったそれ以前の期間における該第2検知手段の検知結果に基づいて算出するので、第2検知手段が検知不能になっても障害物の幅を高精度で算出することができる。

【0008】また請求項2に記載された発明は、請求項1の構成に加えて、前記それ以前の期間において第2検知手段が障害物を検知していないときは、障害物の幅を予め設定した幅とすることを特徴とする。

【0009】上記構成によれば、前記それ以前の期間において第2検知手段が障害物を検知していないために障害物の幅が算出できない場合でも、予め設定した幅を障害物の幅とすることにより対応することができる。

【0010】また請求項3に記載された発明は、請求項1の構成に加えて、現時点の障害物の検知状況に基づいて前記算出された障害物の幅を補正することを特徴とする。

【0011】上記構成によれば、前記算出された障害物の幅を現時点の障害物の検知状況に基づいて補正するの 20 で、更に精度の高い障害物の幅を得ることができる。

【0012】また請求項4に記載された発明は、請求項3の構成に加えて、現時点の障害物の検知状況が、障害物が第1検知手段の検知領域内の自車の進行方向正面領域外で検知されている第1の状況および障害物の一部が前記検知領域外にはみ出ている第2の状況の少なくとも何れかであることを特徴とする。

【0013】上記構成によれば、検知された障害物の位置が検知領域内の自車の進行方向正面領域外にあって該障害物の位置に検知誤差が存在する第1の状況において、あるいは検知された障害物の位置が検知領域外にはみ出ていて該障害物の位置に検知誤差が存在する第2の状況とにおいて、前記算出された障害物の幅を補正することにより障害物の幅方向の端点を適切に算出することができる。

【0014】また請求項5に記載された発明は、請求項3の構成に加えて、前記第1の状況または前記第2の状況の場合、障害物の幅を小さく補正することを特徴とする。

【0015】上記構成によれば、前記第1の状況または前記第2の状況で障害物の幅を小さく補正するので、障害物の幅方向の端点を一層適切に算出することができる

【0016】また請求項6に記載された発明は、請求項5の構成に加えて、前記第2の状況の場合、障害物の全体が前記検知領域内に納まるように障害物の幅を小さく補正することを特徴とする。

【0017】上記構成によれば、前記第2の状況で障害物の全体が検知領域内に納まるように障害物の幅を小さく補正するので、障害物の幅方向の端点を一層適切に算

出することができる。

【0018】また請求項7に記載された発明は、請求項3の構成に加えて、現時点の障害物の検知状況が、前記それ以前の期間において第2検知手段が障害物を検知していた時点から現時点までに時間が経過している状況であり、この経過時間に応じて障害物の幅を小さく補正することを特徴とする。

【0019】上記構成によれば、第2検知手段が障害物を検知していた時点から現時点までに時間が経過しており、そのために第2検知手段で検知した障害物の幅の精度の信頼性が低下していても、前記経過時間に応じて障害物の幅を小さく補正することにより障害物の幅が過大に算出されるのを防止することができる。

【0020】また請求項8に記載された発明は、請求項3の構成に加えて、現時点の障害物の検知状況が、自車と障害物との間に旋回方向の相対運動が生じている状況、自車が旋回している状況および運転者によるステアリング操作が行われている状況の少なくとも何れかであることを特徴とする。

【0021】上記構成によれば、自車と障害物との間に 旋回方向の相対運動が生じていることにより、あるいは 運転者によるステアリング操作が行われて自車が旋回し ていることにより障害物の位置の検知精度が低下して も、障害物の幅を補正して前記検知精度の低下を補償す ることができる。

【0022】また請求項9に記載された発明は、請求項8の構成に加えて、前記旋回方向の相対運動あるいは前記運転者によるステアリング操作が大きいほど障害物の幅を小さく補正することを特徴とする。

【0023】上記構成によれば、自車および障害物間の 旋回方向の相対運動や運転者によるステアリング操作が 大きいときに障害物の幅を小さく補正するので、障害物 の幅が過大に算出されるのを防止することができる。

【0024】また請求項10に記載された発明は、請求項1~9の何れかの構成に加えて、第1検知手段がミリ波レーダー装置であり、第2検知手段がレーザーレーダー装置であることを特徴とする。

【0025】上記構成によれば、第1検知手段としてミリ波レーダー装置を用いることにより天候等の左右されずに障害物の位置を検知することができ、また第2検知手段としてレーザーレーダー装置を用いることにより障害物の位置および幅を高精度で検知することができる。 【0026】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態を、添付図面に示した本発明の実施例に基づいて説明する。

【0027】図1~図18は本発明の実施例を示すもので、図1は障害物検知装置を備えた車両の全体構成図、図2は制動系統のブロック図、図3はレーザーレーダー装置の障害物検知作用の説明図、図4はミリ波レーダー装置の障害物検知作用の説明図、図5はミリ波レーダー

装置の各ビームの受信強度から障害物の左右相対位置を 特定する手法の説明図、図6はミリ波レーダー装置およ びレーザーレーダー装置による障害物の相対位置の検知 の説明図、図7は障害物検知ルーチンのフローチャー ト、図8は障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチ ャート (第1実施例)、図9は障害物の左右幅補正サブ ルーチンのフローチャート(第2実施例)、図10は障 害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャート(第3 実施例)、図11は障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンの フローチャート(第4実施例)、図12は障害物の左右 幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャート(第5実施例)、 図13は障害物の位置が自車の正面から左右にずれてい る場合の作用説明図、図14は障害物の左右相対位置を 補正する領域の説明図、図15は障害物の左右幅補正の 説明図、図16はレーザーレーダー装置で障害物を検知 できなくなってからの時間から補正量を検索するすマッ ブ、図17はヨーレートおよび旋回横加速度から補正量 を検索するすマップ、図18はステアリング舵角速度か ら補正量を検索するすマップである。

【0028】図1および図2に示すように、本発明の隨 害物検知装置を搭載した四輪の車両Vは、エンジンEの 駆動力がトランスミッションTを介して伝達される駆動 輪たる左右の前輪WfL, WfRと、車両Vの走行に伴って 回転する従動輪たる左右の後輪WRL, WRR とを備える。 運転者により操作されるブレーキペダル1は、電子制御 負圧ブースタ2を介してマスタシリンダ3に接続され る。電子制御負圧ブースタ2は、ブレーキペダル1の踏 力を機械的に倍力してマスタシリンダ3を作動させると ともに、制動支援時にはブレーキベダル1の操作によら ずに電子制御ユニットUからの制動指令信号によりマス タシリンダ3を作動させる。ブレーキペダル1に踏力が 入力され、かつ電子制御ユニットUから制動指令信号が 入力された場合、電子制御負圧ブースタ2は両者のうち の何れか大きい方に合わせてブレーキ油圧を出力させ る。尚、電子制御負圧ブースタ2の入力ロッドはロスト モーション機構を介してブレーキペダル1に接続されて おり、電子制御負圧ブースタ2が電子制御ユニットUか らの信号により作動して前記入力ロッドが前方に移動し ても、ブレーキペダル1は初期位置に留まるようになっ ている。

【0029】マスタシリンダ3の一対の出力ポート8、9は油圧制御装置4を介して前輪WFL、WFR および後輪WFL、WFR にそれぞれ設けられたブレーキキャリパ5FL、5FR、5FR、5FR、5FR、5FRに対応して4個の圧力調整器6…を備えており、それぞれの圧力調整器6…は電子制御ユニットUに接続されて前輪WFL、WFR および後輪WFL、WFR に設けられたブレーキキャリパ5FL、5FR、5FL、5FRの作動を個別に制御する。従って、圧力調整器6…によって各ブレーキキャリ

パ5fl, 5fl, 5fl, 5fl (伝達されるブレーキ油圧を独立に制御すれば、制動時における車輪のロックを抑制するアンチロックブレーキ制御を行うことができる。

【0030】電子制御ユニットUには、車体前方に向けてミリ波を発信し、その反射波に基づいて前走車等の障害物と自車との前後相対位置および左右相対位置を検知するミリ波レーダー装置S1と、車体前方に向けてレーザーを発信し、その反射波に基づいて前走車等の障害物と自車との前後相対位置および左右相対位置、並びに障害物の左右幅を検知するレーザーレーダー装置S2とが接続される。更に電子制御ユニットUには、前輪WFL、WFR および後輪WRL、WRRの回転数をそれぞれ検知する車輪速センサS3…と、ステアリングホイール10の舵角速度を検知する舵角速度センサS4、車両Vのヨーレートを検知するョーレートセンサS5と、車両Vの横加速度を検知する横加速度センサS6とが接続される。

【0031】而して、電子制御ユニットUは、ミリ波レーダー装置S1 およびレーザーレーダー装置S2 の検知結果に基づいて、自車を基準とする前走車等の障害物の前後相対位置、左右相対位置および左右幅を算出し、これら前後相対位置、左右相対位置および左右幅と、車輪速センサS3 …で検知した自車の車速および加速度とに基づいて障害物との接触可能性を判定する。そして自車が障害物と接触する可能性がある場合には、電子制御ユニットUからの指令で電子制御負圧ブースタ2が作動し、マスタシリンダ3が発生したブレーキ油圧が油圧制御装置4で調圧されてブレーキキャリパ5元、5元、5元に伝達され、障害物との接触を回避すべく自動制動を実行する。

【0032】ミリ波レーダー装置S₁ およびレーザーレーダー装置S₂ は各々異なる検知特性を有しているため、そのときの状況に応じて両レーダー装置S₁, S₂を使い分けて障害物の前後相対位置、左右相対位置および左右幅を算出する。以下、その詳細を説明する。

【0033】先ず、ミリ波レーダー装置S₁ およびレーザーレーダー装置S₂ の検知特性について説明する。

【0034】レーザーレーダー装置S2に用いられるレーザーはビームを細く絞ることが可能であるため、図3に示すように、車体前方に送信した細幅のビームを左右方向(あるいは左右方向および上下方向)に走査しながら障害物からの反射波を受信することにより、その送信から受信までの時間に基づいて障害物の前後相対位置を検知するとともに、反射波が受信されたときのビームの送信方向に基づいて障害物の左右相対位置を検知する。

【0035】レーザーレーダー装置S2 は左右方向の分解能に優れており、図6に示すように、障害物が前走車である場合には、その車体後面に設けられた左右のリフレクタを主として検知するため、障害物の左右相対位置や左右幅の検知精度が極めて良好である。その反面、1台の自動車の左右のリフレクタを並走する2台の自動二

8

輪車と誤認職したり、並走する2台の自動二輪車を1台の自動車と誤認職したりする可能性がある。また光を強く反射する物体を検知するため、道路に設けられたキャッツアイ等の反射物を障害物として誤検知してしまう可能性がある。

【0036】一方、ミリ波レーダー装置S」に用いられ るミリ波はレーザーに比べて細く絞ることが困難である ため、図4に示すように複数本のミリ波のビームを車体 前方に放射状に送信して反射波を受信することにより、 その送信から受信までの時間に基づいて障害物の前後相 対位置を検知するとともに、複数本のビームのうちで反 射波が受信されたビームの送信方向に基づいて障害物の 左右相対位置を検知する。このとき、1個の障害物に対 して複数のビームの反射波が受信されるため、図5およ び図6に示すように、複数のビームの受信強度の重心位 置を算出し、その重心位置を障害物の左右相対位置とし て推定する。以上の理由からミリ波レーダー装置S」で は障害物の左右幅を検知することが難しいため、その障 害物の左右幅としてレーザーレーダー装置 S2 の以前の 検知結果から推定した値や、予め定められた設定値が採 20 用される。

【0037】以上のように、レーザーレーダー装置S2は障害物の左右相対位置および左右幅の検知精度においてミリ波レーダー装置S1よりも優れているが、濃霧等の気象条件でレーザーが散乱してしまう場合には検知できないという問題がある。一方、ミリ波レーダー装置S1は気象条件に左右されずに検知可能であるが、前述したように左右相対位置および左右幅の検知精度においてレーザーレーダー装置S2に劣っている。そこで、本実施例ではミリ波レーダー装置S1およびレーザーレーダ 30一装置S2が以下のようにして使い分けられる。

【0038】図7のフローチャートのステップS11 で、ミリ波レーダー装置S」およびレーザーレーダー装 置S2 でそれぞれ障害物の前後相対位置および左右相対 位置を検知し、続くステップS12で相対位置が近い検 知データを一纏めにして障害物として認識する。このと き、ミリ波レーダー装置SIの検知データとしては、図 4および図5に示す各ビームの検知データが独立して用 いられる。続くステップS13で、濃霧等の障害がない ためにレーザーレーダー装置S2 が障害物を検知してい る場合、つまりミリ波レーダー装置S」およびレーザー レーダー装置Szが共に障害物を検知している場合に は、ステップS14で、両レーダー装置Si, S2で検 知した障害物の前後相対位置データの最小値を障害物の 前後相対位置とするとともに、両レーダー装置SI,S 2 で検知した障害物の左右相対位置データの最大値およ び最小値の中間値を障害物の左右相対位置とする。更に ステップS15で、両レーダー装置SI, S2 で検知し た障害物の左右相対位置の最大値および最小値の差を障 害物の左右幅とする。尚、前記ステップS14およびス

テップS15における障害物の左右相対位置は、自車の前方に延びる直線上で0であり、左方向を正、右方向を 負とすると、その直線から左に離れるほど増加し、右に離れるほど減少するものとする。

【0039】このように、濃霧等の障害がないためにレーザーレーダー装置S2が検知可能な場合には、検知精度の高いレーザーレーダー装置S2の検知データを含む両レーダー装置S1, S2の検知データによって障害物の前後相対位置、左右相対位置および左右幅を検知するので、その検知精度はレーザーレーダー装置S2の検知精度と同等以上の高いものとなる。

【0040】前記ステップS13で、濃霧等の障害によ りレーザーレーダー装置S2 による検知が不能になり、 ミリ波レーダー装置SIによる検知だけが可能な場合に は、ステップS16に移行する。ステップS16で、ミ リ波レーダー装置SIの各ビームで検知した障害物の前 後相対位置データの最小値を障害物の前後相対位置とす るとともに、ミリ波レーダー装置SIの各ビームの左右 相対位置データの重心位置を障害物の左右相対位置とす る(図5参照)。続くステップS17で、その障害物が 以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2 で検知されていた場合 には、以前にレーザーレーダー装置 S2 で検知した左右 幅を障害物の左右幅として採用する。そしてステップS 20で、前記ステップS18で算出した障害物の左右幅 を補正する。この補正には複数の手法があり、その各々 を後から詳述する。一方、ステップS17で前記障害物 が以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2 で検知されていない 場合には、ステップS19で、その障害物の左右幅を予 め設定した値(例えば、0.5m)とする。

【0041】このように、障害物の左右幅の検知精度が高いレーザーレーダー装置 S2 が検知不能の場合には、それが検知可能であったときに検知した障害物の左右幅を援用することにより、障害物の左右幅の検知精度が低いミリ波レーダー装置 S1 の弱点を補うことができる。【0042】次に、前記ステップ S20における障害物の左右幅の補正の複数の実施例を順次説明する。

【0043】①障害物の自車正面からのずれに応じた補 正

図15(a)に示すように、障害物が自車の正面に位置すれば、ミリ波レーダー装置S₁で検知した障害物の左右相対位置Sは該障害物の左右方向の中央位置Pcに一致するため、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S₂で検知した障害物の左右幅Wを前記障害物の左右相対位置Sの両側に均等に振り分ければ、障害物の左右の端点P_L,P_Rは実際の端点に良く一致する。

【0044】しかしながら、図13に示すように、障害物が自車の正面から例えば左側にずれている場合を考えると、ミリ波が障害物の斜め右後方から当たるために、ミリ波レーダー装置SIで検知される障害物の左右相対位置Sは、図15(b)に示すように、障害物の左右方

40

向の中央位置 Pc よりも右側 (自車の正面側) に移動する。従って、以前にレーザーレーダー装置 S2 で検知した障害物の左右幅Wを前記障害物の左右相対位置 Sの両側に均等に振り分けると、障害物の左右の端点 PL, PR は実際の端点と一致せず、特に障害物の右側の端点 PR は実際の端点よりも右側 (自車の正面側) にずれてしまう。

【0045】障害物の左右の端点PL, PRのうち、自 車の正面側に位置する端点 PR は接触可能性の判定を行 う上で重要なものであるが、その端点PR が実際の端点 よりも自車の正面側にずれて算出されると、接触可能性 が本来の値よりも高めに算出されて自動制動制御が的確 に行われなくなる可能性がある。そこで、図14 (a) あるいは図14(b)に斜線で示すように、自車の正面 に沿う領域Aを設定し、障害物が前記領域Aにあるとき には、ミリ波レーダー装置SIで検知した障害物の左右 相対位置 S が障害物の左右方向の中央位置 Pc に一致し ていると見做して補正を実行せず、障害物が前記領域A にないときには、ミリ波レーダー装置SIで検知した障 害物の左右相対位置Sが障害物の左右方向の中央位置P c に一致していないと見做し、以前にレーザーレーダー 装置S2 で検知した障害物の左右幅Wを、それよりも所 定値(例えば、1m)小さいW'に補正する。

【0046】その結果、図15(b)に示すように、障害物の左右相対位置Sの左右両側に補正した障害物の左右幅W'を均等に振り分けると、新たな端点は補正をしない場合のPL, PRからPL', PR'に移動し、実際の端点に良く一致するようになって接触可能性の算出精度が向上する。

【0047】以上の説明を纏めたものが図8のフローチャートであり、ステップS31で障害物が領域Aから外れており、障害物の左右相対位置Sが障害物の左右方向の中央位置Pcに一致していない場合には、ステップS32で、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2で検知した障害物の左右幅Wから所定値を減算した値を補正後の障害物の左右幅W'とする。尚、前記所定値を固定せず、それを障害物の自車前方からのずれの程度に応じて変化させても良い。

【0048】②<u>障害物のミリ波レーダー装置の検知範囲からの逸脱に応じた補正</u>

図13および図15 (c)に示すように、障害物が自車の正面から例えば右側にずれており、その一部がミリ波レーダー装置S」の検知範囲から逸脱している場合を考えると、ミリ波が障害物の斜め左後方から当たり、かつ障害物の右側の一部のミリ波により照射されないために、ミリ波レーダー装置S」で検知される障害物の左右相対位置Sは、障害物の左右方向の中央位置Pcよりも左側(自車の正面側)に移動する。その結果、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2で検知した障害物の左右幅Wを前記障害物の左右相対位置Sの両側に均等に振り分ける

と、障害物の左右の端点 P_L , P_R のうちの右側の端点 P_R が検知範囲外にはみ出すことがある。そこで、以前 にレーザーレーダー装置 S_2 で検知した障害物の左右幅 Wを、右側の端点 P_R が検知範囲外に納まるように減少方向に補正してW' とする。

【0049】以上の説明を纏めたものが図9のフローチャートであり、ステップS41で、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2で検知した障害物の左右幅Wを用いて障害物の端点を算出した結果、ステップS42で何れかの端点がミリ波レーダー装置S1の検知範囲から外れていれば、ステップS43で前記端点がミリ波レーダー装置S1の検知範囲に納まるように前記障害物の左右幅Wを減少方向に補正する。

【0050】③<u>レーザーレーダー装置が検知不能になってからの時間に応じた補正</u>

レーザーレーダー装置S₂ が検知不能になってからの時間が長くなるに応じて障害物の左右幅Wの信頼性は低下するため、同じ左右幅Wを継続的に使用すると接触可能性の算出精度が低下する虞がある。

【0051】そこで、図10のフローチャートのステップS51で、レーザーレーダー装置S2 が検知不能になってからの時間に基づいて、図16のマップから障害物の左右幅の補正量を検索する。続くステップS52で、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2 で検知した障害物の左右幅Wから前記補正量を減算した値を補正後の障害物の左右幅W′とする。但し、補正後の障害物の左右幅W′は最小値を0.5mとし、負値にならないようにする。【0052】④自車の旋回方向の運動状態に応じた補正

自車が旋回すると障害物に対して斜め方向からミリ波を 照射することになり、検知される左右相対位置が実際の 左右相対位置からずれて接触可能性の算出精度が低下す る場合がある。また運転者が自発的に旋回している場合 に、障害物と接触する可能性が有ると判定されて自動制 動や警報が行われると、運転者が煩わしく感じることが ある。そこで、自車の旋回方向の運動状態に基づいて、 以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2で検知した障害物の左 右幅Wを減算するように補正すれば、障害物の左右幅が 小さく認識されるようになり、接触可能性が必要以上に 大きく判定されて不要な自動制動が行われるのが防止さ れる。

【0053】図11のステップS61で、ヨーレートセンサS5で自車のヨーレートを検知するとともに、横加速度センサS6で自車の横加速度を検知する。続くステップS62で、前記ヨーレートおよび前記横加速度をパラメータとして、図17のマップから補正量を検索し、続くステップS63で、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2で検知した障害物の左右幅Wから前記補正量を減算した値を補正後の障害物の左右幅W′とする。

【0054】⑤運転者のステアリング操作による舵角速 度に応じた補正 運転者が障害物との接触可能性を認識して回避のためのステアリング操作を行ったとき、障害物と接触する可能性が有ると判定されて自動制動や警報が行われると、前記ステアリング操作に自動制動が干渉して運転者が違和感を受ける場合がある。これを防止するために、運転者のステアリング操作による舵角速度に応じて、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2 で検知した障害物の左右幅Wを減算するように補正する。これにより障害物の左右幅が小さく認識されるようになり、接触可能性が必要以上に大きく判定されて不要な自動制動が行われるのを防止することができる。

【0055】図12のステップS71で、舵角速度センサS4の出力に基づいて舵角速度を算出し、この舵角速度を図18のマップに適用して補正量を検索する。そしてステップS72で、以前にレーザーレーダー装置S2で検知した障害物の左右幅Wから前記補正量を減算した値を補正後の障害物の左右幅W′とする。

【0056】尚、舵角速度に代えて、操舵トルクや操舵 ~トルクの時間変化量を用いることも可能である。

【0057】以上、本発明の実施例を説明したが、本発 20 明はその要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々の設計変更を行う ことが可能である。

【0058】例えば、実施例では通常時にミリ波レーダー装置SIおよびレーザーレーダー装置S2の両方で障害物を検知しているが、通常時にレーザーレーダー装置S2だけで障害物を検知し、レーザーレーダー装置S2が検知不能になったときにミリ波レーダー装置SIで障害物を検知することも可能である。

[0059]

【発明の効果】以上のように請求項1に記載された発明によれば、車幅方向の検知精度が比較的に低い第1検知手段だけで障害物を検知している期間は、障害物の位置は該第1検知手段の検知結果に基づいて算出し、障害物の幅は第2検知手段が未だ検知可能であったそれ以前の期間における該第2検知手段の検知結果に基づいて算出するので、第2検知手段が検知不能になっても障害物の幅を高精度で算出することができる。

【0060】また請求項2に記載された発明によれば、 前記それ以前の期間において第2検知手段が障害物を検 知していないために障害物の幅が算出できない場合で も、予め設定した幅を障害物の幅とすることにより対応 することができる。

【0061】また請求項3に記載された発明によれば、 前記算出された障害物の幅を現時点の障害物の検知状況 に基づいて補正するので、更に精度の高い障害物の幅を 得ることができる。

【0062】また請求項4に記載された発明によれば、 検知された障害物の位置が検知領域内の自車の進行方向 正面領域外にあって該障害物の位置に検知誤差が存在す る第1の状況において、あるいは検知された障害物の位 50 置が検知領域外にはみ出ていて該障害物の位置に検知誤差が存在する第2の状況とにおいて、前記算出された障害物の幅を補正することにより障害物の幅方向の端点を適切に算出することができる。

12

【0063】また請求項5に記載された発明によれば、 前記第1の状況または前記第2の状況で障害物の幅を小 さく補正するので、障害物の幅方向の端点を一層適切に 算出することができる。

【0064】また請求項6に記載された発明によれば、 前記第2の状況で障害物の全体が検知領域内に納まるよ うに障害物の幅を小さく補正するので、障害物の幅方向 の端点を一層適切に算出することができる。

【0065】また請求項7に記載された発明によれば、第2検知手段が障害物を検知していた時点から現時点までに時間が経過しており、そのために第2検知手段で検知した障害物の幅の精度の信頼性が低下していても、前記経過時間に応じて障害物の幅を小さく補正することにより障害物の幅が過大に算出されるのを防止することができる。

【0066】また請求項8に記載された発明によれば、 自車と障害物との間に旋回方向の相対運動が生じている ことにより、あるいは運転者によるステアリング操作が 行われて自車が旋回していることにより障害物の位置の 検知精度が低下しても、障害物の幅を補正して前記検知 精度の低下を補償することができる。

【0067】また請求項9に記載された発明によれば、 自車および障害物間の旋回方向の相対運動や運転者によ るステアリング操作が大きいときに障害物の幅を小さく 補正するので、障害物の幅が過大に算出されるのを防止 することができる。

【0068】また請求項10に記載された発明によれば、第1検知手段としてミリ波レーダー装置を用いることにより天候等の左右されずに障害物の位置を検知することができ、また第2検知手段としてレーザーレーダー装置を用いることにより障害物の位置および幅を高精度で検知することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】障害物検知装置を備えた車両の全体構成図
- 【図2】制動系統のブロック図
- 40 【図3】レーザーレーダー装置の障害物検知作用の説明図
 - 【図4】ミリ波レーダー装置の障害物検知作用の説明図
 - 【図5】ミリ波レーダー装置の各ビームの受信強度から 障害物の左右相対位置を特定する手法の説明図
 - 【図6】ミリ波レーダー装置およびレーザーレーダー装置による障害物の相対位置の検知の説明図
 - 【図7】障害物検知ルーチンのフローチャート
 - 【図8】障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャート (第1 実施例)
 - 【図9】障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャ

ート (第2実施例)

【図10】障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャート(第3実施例)

【図11】障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャート(第4実施例)

【図12】障害物の左右幅補正サブルーチンのフローチャート(第5実施例)

【図13】障害物の位置が自車の正面から左右にずれて いる場合の作用説明図

【図14】障害物の左右相対位置を補正する領域の説明 図

【図15】障害物の左右幅補正の説明図

【図16】レーザーレーダー装置で障害物を検知できなくなってからの時間から補正量を検索するすマップ

14

【図17】ヨーレートおよび旋回横加速度から補正量を 検索するすマップ

【図18】ステアリング舵角速度から補正量を検索する すマップ

【符号の説明】

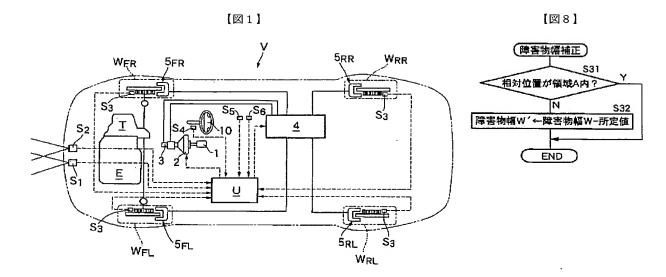
S1 ミリ波レーダー装置(第1物体検知手段)

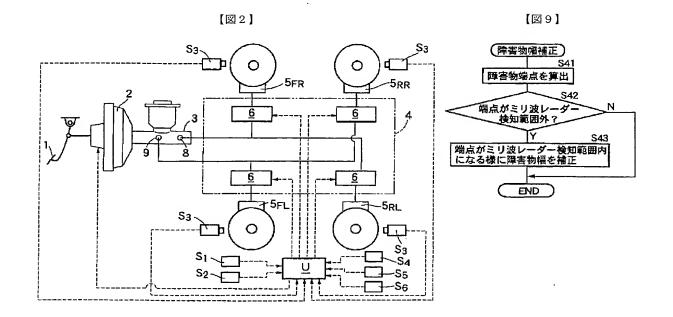
S2 レーザーレーダー装置(第2物体検知手

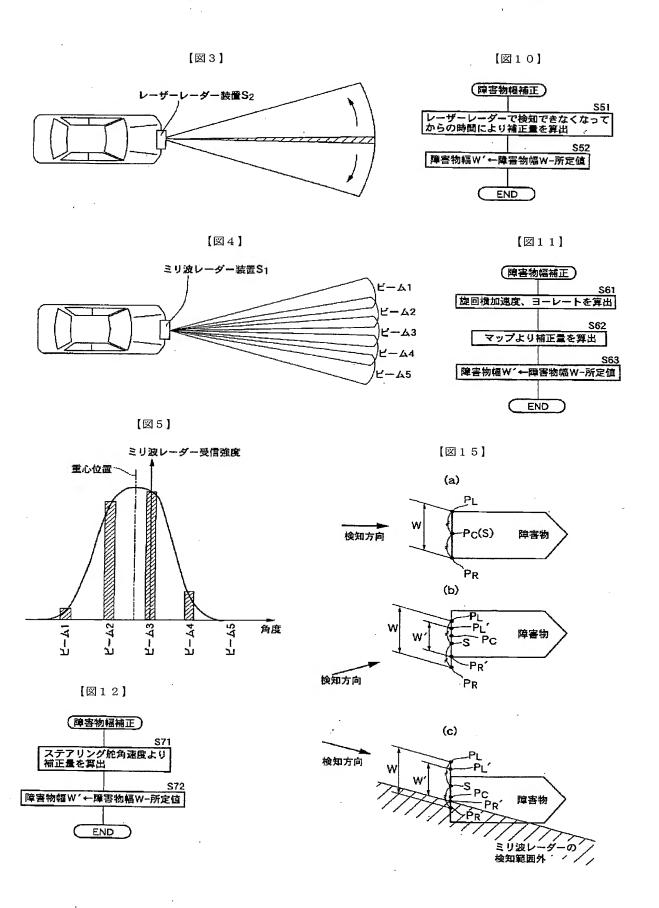
段)

V 車両(自車)

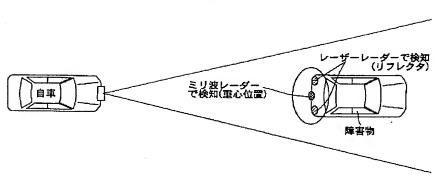
W 障害物の幅



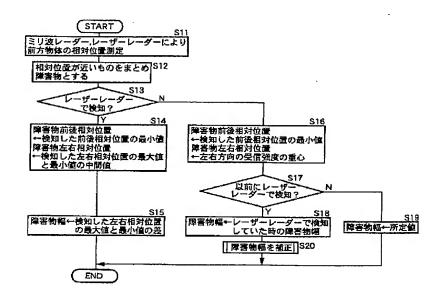




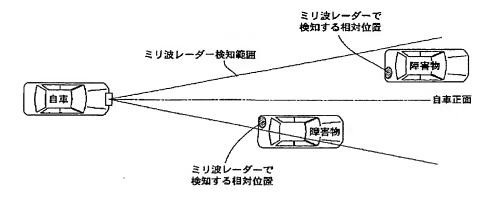


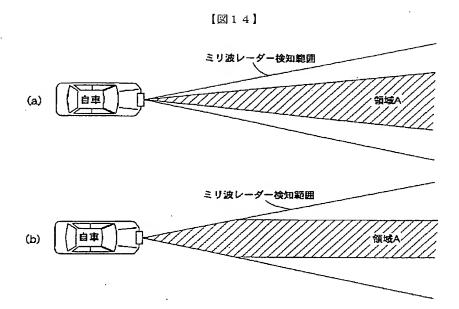


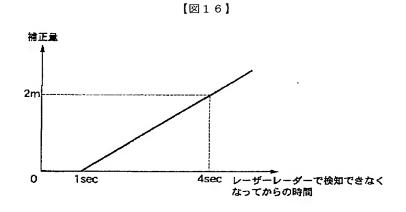
[図7]

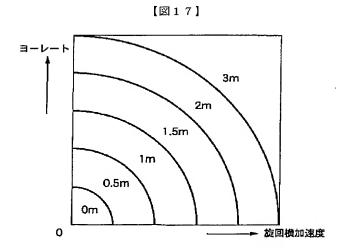


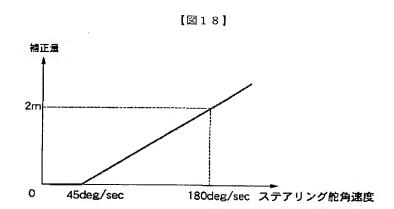
【図13】











フロントページの続き

(72) 発明者 羽田 智

埼玉県和光市中央1丁目4番1号 株式会

社本田技術研究所内

(72) 発明者 市川 章二

埼玉県和光市中央1丁目4番1号 株式会

社本田技術研究所内

Fターム(参考) 5H180 AA01 BB04 CC03 CC12 CC14

LL01 LL09

5J070 AB24 AC01 AC20 AE01 AE20

AF03 AG01 AH33 AH50 AK04

AK22 AK40 BD06 BF07 BF16

BF19

5J084 AA04 AA20 AB01 AB20 AC02

BAO3 BA14 CA76 EA11